

RED RIVER OF THE NORTH BASIN

05045950 ORWELL LAKE NEAR FERGUS FALLS, MN

LOCATION.--Lat 46°12'55", long 96° 10'40", in SW1/4 sec. 26, T.132 N., R.44 W., Otter Tail County, Hydrologic Unit 09020103, at dam on Otter Tail River at outlet of Orwell Lake, 7 mi southwest of Fergus Falls.

DRAINAGE AREA.--1,830 mi², approximately.

PERIOD OF RECORD.--March 1953 to current year. Prior to October 1971, published as Orwell Reservoir.

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is in mean sea level, adjustment of 1912.

REMARKS.--Reservoir is formed by earth dam with concrete spillway with one taintor gate; storage began in March 1953. Capacity to elevation 1,070 ft (maximum operating stage) is 14,100 acre-ft of which 13,100 acre-ft is controlled storage above elevation 1,048 ft (minimum operating stage). Dead storage is 210 acre-ft. Figures given herein represent total contents. Reservoir is used for flood control and to increase low flow for water supply and pollution abatement.

COOPERATION.--Records were provided by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum contents, 16,920 acre-ft, June 17, 1962, May 23, 1966, elevation, 1,072.38 ft; minimum (after initial filling), 703 acre-ft, Mar. 30, 1997, elevation, 1,048.01ft; minimum elevation, 1,046.96 ft, Aug. 26, 27, 1953.

EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.--Maximum contents, 14,340 acre-ft, Apr. 15, elevation, 1070.27 ft; minimum, 703 acre-ft, Mar. 30, elevation, 1048.01 ft.

MONTH-END ELEVATION AND CONTENTS, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 1996 TO SEPTEMBER 1997

Date	Elevation (feet)	Contents (acre-feet)	Change in contents (acre-feet)
Sept. 30.....	1063.67	8050	
Oct. 31.....	1062.60	7250	-800
Nov. 30.....	1063.71	8080	+830
Dec. 31.....	1064.43	8670	+590
CAL YR 1996....			+220
Jan. 31.....	1063.46	7900	-770
Feb. 28.....	1057.13	3920	-3980
Mar. 31.....	1048.80	900	-3020
Apr. 30.....	1066.77	10770	+9870
May 31.....	1064.05	8340	-2430
June 30.....	1063.95	8260	-80
July 31.....	1063.69	8070	-190
Aug. 31.....	1063.25	7740	-330

Sept. 30.....	1063.62	8020	+280
WTR YR 1997....			-30